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Berkeley, California

Golden Gate Audubon Society

## THE GULL

POINT REYES - FARALLON ISLE  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The October GGAS membership meeting will present Nancy Stone, coordinator of the Point Reyes-Farallon Island National Marine Sanctuary, and Stephanie Kaze, Ph.D., Education Director of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, in a slide illustrated program about this relatively new sanctuary. It includes approximately 948 square nautical miles covering the waters of Bodega, Tomales and Bolinas bays and Bolinas Lagoon and out to the Farallon Islands, including the waters within 12 miles of the Islands. It includes tidal salt marshes and bogs, rocky shores and beaches, offshore kelp beds and the deep waters of the Gulf of the Farallones. All in our own back yard.

This is home to the largest seabird colony in the United States with 300,000 birds of twelve species on the Farallons, waters often containing migrating Grey Whales, Humpbacks and Great Blues, Killer and even the very rare Bottle-nosed Whales; Pacific White-sided, Dall and Rizzo's Porpoises; Elephant and Harbor Seals, California and Steller's Sea Lions, Tufted Puffins, gulls, cormorants, pelicans, murres, Pigeon Guillemots. What a place!

Nancy, who has been with the Park Service for about nine years, plans to address us about the access and resources of the sanctuary, the national program in general, the purpose, local emphasis and plans for the future. Stephanie will speak about the natural history of the sanctuary.

We heartily invite you to attend the most delightful event on **Oct. 11 at 7:30** in San Francisco at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th St. The Muni #48 bus will take you to the doorstep; #19 will bring you to within three blocks. By car, take Potrero Ave. to 17th St., east to Connecticut and turn right to 20th St.

## NOVEMBER

In November the meeting will again be in Berkeley on Thursday, Nov. 8. The speaker will be our own world traveler and "raconteur extraordinaire" George Peyton, who will speak on Birding Plus- in China and Japan. Mark your calendars. What a night this promises to be.

LEON ABRAMS—Program Committee

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, October 6—Alameda South Shore.** (See Sept. GULL)

**Sunday, October 7—Sunol Regional Park.** See Sept. GULL)

**Wednesday, October 10—Mini trip to Aquatic Park, Berkeley and other nearby shoreline areas.** Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the northwest corner of Spenger's parking lot to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional; rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

**Saturday, October 13—San Francisco Bird Blitz—A Benefit for Point Reyes Bird Observatory.** Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes near 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. We will caravan from here to other sites in San Francisco including Lake Merced, Fort Funston and Candlestick Point. This will be an all day trip so bring lunch. We hope to see about 100 species. The purpose of this trip is to raise money for PRBO so you will be expected to pledge at least five cents for every species seen.

Get additional pledges from friends and neighbors for this worthwhile organization. Bring your checkbook! We will finish the day with dinner at Celia's Mexican Restaurant. Please contact Dan if you plan to join the group for dinner. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

**Saturday, October 20—Pt. Isabel, Berkeley Marina and Emeryville Marina.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Pt. Isabel. From Hwy. 17 take the Central Ave. offramp in El Cerrito, turn towards the bay and go to the end of the street.

Turn right and go to the parking lot. Rain cancels trip. We will be looking for waterfowl and shorebirds. Bring your lunch. Leader: Ruth Dement (527-9723).

**Sunday, October 21 — San Mateo Coast.** Meet at 8:30 a.m. along Hwy. 1 at Pescadero beach parking lot and Pescadero Rd. Please carpool to this point if possible because parking is limited and carpooling will be necessary. We will bird at Pescadero, then along the coast to Ano Nuevo (\$). Bring lunch and a jacket; the weather can be cold along the coast. We will be looking for shorebirds. Leader: Alan Hopkins (585-5669). (✓)

**Saturday, October 27—Mt. Diablo State Park.** Meet at 9:30 at the Rock City parking lot. From Oakland go east on I-580, then north on I-680 to Danville and follow the signs east on Diablo Rd. to the park. (\$) We will be in oak woodland, meadows and inland chaparral plant communities. The major attraction on this trip is the tarantula migration. We will also visit the U.C. Berkeley study area to see the effect of fire on chaparral communities. At the end of the trip we will caravan to the top of the mountain to see all of northern California. This trip will be led by a well-known Bay Area ecologist. Leader: Ed Bedecarrax (239-3362 work hours). (✓)

**Sunday, October 28—Mt. San Bruno.** From San Francisco take Hwy. 280 south to Daly City. Exit at Eastmoor Ave., Mission. Go left onto Sullivan and then turn left on Eastmoor. Take Eastmoor across Market. You will then be on East Market. Follow East Market, it will change names to Guadalupe Ave. Continue on Guadalupe

Ave. to Radio Rd. Turn right on radio Rd. and park near the San Bruno Mountain County Park sign. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Bring warm clothing. Bring liquids and lunch. We will be walking about 1½ miles over level terrain. Leader: John McCormick (929-9305).

**Saturday, November 3—Beginners' Field Trip to Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park.** Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes near 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will identify the common water and land birds of this area. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. The trip will end before lunch. Leader: Woody Kuehn (239-7914).

**Sunday, November 4 — Tennessee Valley.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. and bring lunch. Going north across the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Mill Valley exit under the Richardson Bay Bridge and in one-half mile turn left at the Tennessee Valley sign. Drive to the end of the road. We will walk on the flat trail looking for land and sea birds. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 during work hours). (✓)

**Saturday, November 10 — Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot by the visitors' center. From Hwy. 17 take the Decoto Ave. exit in Newark and continue to Newark Blvd. and turn north (right). Follow Newark to Patterson and turn left to the park. We should see common waterfowl, shorebirds and land-birds. Leader: David Rice (527-6696). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 724-2116 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office 843-2222.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## **OBSERVATIONS: July 11 Through August 27**

I chose a good six weeks to travel out of the area; there were no astounding rarities, and the most dramatic avian event was the irruption of Red Crossbills, which I witnessed instead in the Pacific Northwest.

### **NESTING COLONIES**

Farallon Island seabirds generally had reasonable reproductive success, with two exceptions. Most Pelagic Cormorants that nested failed to fledge any young. The Tufted Puffins apparently did not even attempt to breed there (all PRBO). Perhaps this helps explain Tufted Puffins seen at Bodega Head, two on July 15 (LCB, BDP, JP) and one Aug. 23 (KC).

Double-crested Cormorants fulfilled both predictions from my last column: Richmond Bridge workers confirm that cormorants have nested there for at least 17 years, undetected by birders or wildlife biologists (fide LRF). On July 15 we counted at least 102 active or recently active nests of Double-crested Cormorants on the underside of the east end of the Bay Bridge, for the first Alameda County nesting record (SFB, LRF). We have yet to discover when this colony was initiated. Obviously the San Mateo and Carquinez Strait bridges should be checked for cormorant colonies.

Western Gulls have also been establishing previously undiscovered, probably genuinely new, colonies inside the Bay. More than 200 juvenals were fledged from the island portion



of breakwater at Alameda Naval Air Station. (LRF, SFB). Other unreported colonies were found on mainland breakwaters and seawalls at Alameda Naval Air Station (where all nests failed due to predation and/or disturbance), pier bases of the Bay Bridge, Bird Island by Brooks Island, and tiny Castro Rocks east of the Red Rock Island colony. All of the latter colonies seemed quite successful this year (SFB, LRF, et al.).

The Least Tern news continues to be ominous, but at least a few young fledged from the three colonies studied by your GGAS team this year (LDC, LRF, SFB, PK). Estimated numbers are eight to ten for Alameda Naval Air Station, two at Oakland Airport, and six to nine from Pittsburg (LCD, LRF). The controversial and threatened Baumberg Tract in Hayward was being used by 60 Least Terns Aug. 13, and one fledgling was distinguished. About half as many were still present Aug. 24, with two or three fledglings noted (all LDC, PK, LRF).

### PELAGICS

Black-vented Shearwaters are again staging an early flight into the Monterey Bay area, with 100 estimated Aug. 22 (DLS, et al.). Least Storm Petrels also returned. At least 10 were in Monterey Bay Aug. 18 (JM, et al.), and 30 were there Aug. 26 (JML, et al.). The season's first Wilson's Storm-Petrel was also found August 26 in Monterey Bay (JML, et al.).

Two Long-tailed Jaegers were reported off Monterey Aug. 26 (MLR, et al., fide AH). A South Polar Skua about 20 miles west of San Francisco Aug. 12 (MW, et al.) was rather rare in the Gulf of the Farallones. The most Skuas reported from Monterey Bay was three Aug. 25 (AH, JW, et al.) Three Craveri's Murrelets were

encountered by the same boat (AH, JW, et al.). A young Pigeon Guillemot beached and died in Emeryville Aug. 22 (TC).

### DUCKS

A male Blue-winged Teal was again at Mendoza Pond July 18 (AG, WG). The Brooks Island King Eider was apparently last seen July 21 (DW). A Harlequin Duck was near the mouth of Drakes Estero Aug. 5 (DT). An Oldsquaw reported on Borax Lake near Clear Lake, Lake Co., July 14 (ES) was even more surprising due to the location than for its date. A common Goldeneye swam Bodega Bay July 30 (PG, et al.).

### SHOREBIRDS

A Wandering Tattler on the Alameda Naval Air Station breakwater July 13 seemed early (SFB). An early Baird's Sandpiper compared directly with adult Sanderlings at Abbott's Lagoon July 16 (DT) was most likely an adult; it is unlikely that a juvenal could arrive so early. An adult Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Bodega Bay settling ponds July 15 (LCB, BDP, JP). Juvenal Semipalmated Sandpipers were identified on schedule: singles at Cader Lane Ponds, Aug. 11-12 (KC, KH), Aug. 18 (BDP, PL), Aug. 26-28 (RJ, mob, KC), representing probably two or three individuals, and four at Elkhorn Slough in early-mid August (DR). A breeding plumaged Dunlin at Vallejo Aug. 5 (EH) was quite unseasonal. A buff-breasted Sandpiper tarried at Cader Lane Ponds only briefly Aug. 25 (BDP).

### ELEGANT TERN

An estimate of 1000 Elegant Terns at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 22 (AG) is expected, but a total of 1125 at Bodega Bay Aug. 25 (NC is probably a record for that far north.

**EASTERN LANDBIRDS**

Two Chimney Swifts were 3.3 miles south of the Big Sur River Mouth Aug. 19-26 (DR, DS). A Red-eyed Vireo in Pacifica was locatable when singing July 17-25 (SS, mob).

The pair of **Northern Parulas** and their fledgling were refound a very short distance from the original observations at Inverness Park. The adults fed the juvenal July 28-29., and the adult male was seen there through Aug. 6 (RH). Another Northern Parula visited SE Farallon July 6 (PRBO). This island also hosted a **Prairie Warbler** Aug. 20 and an **American Redstart** June 23 (PRBO). A **Black-and-white Warbler** played San Francisco tourist in Lincoln Park Aug. 26 (AH).

A one year old male **Summer Tanager** (therefore not the same bird that wintered nearby) frequented Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park Aug. 15-29 (JMu, BH, DM). A female **Summer Tanager** spent the two weeks through Aug. 22 at 9th Ave. and Ortega in San Francisco (SY).

The **Olema** male **Indigo Bunting** was still present July 18 (AG, WG). Another **Indigo Bunting** arrived on SE Farallon Aug. 11 (PRBO).

**WESTERN LANDBIRDS**

A stray **Lesser Nighthawk** was at Watsonville Sewage Ponds Aug. 25 (JW). Aug. 19 was a late date for two male **Costa's Hummingbirds** to remain in lower Del Puerto Canyon (AE).

A female **Black-chinned Sparrow** fed its fledgling July 22 at the same point on the Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. where a male sang in May (DT). A juvenal of this species was reported from the Tilden Park Botanical Garden Aug. 29 (WO). The **Sage Sparrow** on Volmer Peak in Tilden Park Aug.

25 (MS) may represent another manifestation of the "arid irruption". One **Lawrence's Goldfinch** from this movement remained at Volmer Peak the same day (MS).

An out-of-season **Chestnut-collared Longspur** on SE Farallon July 16 was listed as an immature male (PRBO). In the light of the date I assume that this refers to a yearling, not a juvenal. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** arrived on SE Farallon Aug. 4 and 10 (PRBO), and another was found on **Abbot's Lagoon** Aug. 25 (IT, MB). The male **Great-tailed Grackle** was still in San Francisco Aug. 1 (DW).

**RED CROSSBILL**

The irruption of **Red Crossbills** was detected most strongly in Marin County, but wherever they were found they were harvesting a good crop of **Douglas-fir** cones (BN, JG, GH). The adult crossbills did not linger long enough to nest, but rather they had streak-breasted juvenals already with them.

First came an observation of 15 near **Gualala** July 14 (JP, PL). The next day 20-30 were found on **Mt. Tamalpais** (GC) and two were at **Tilden Park** (RA). Within days **Red Crossbills** were all over Marin County where **Douglas-firs** grow, including numbers such as 75 on **San Geronimo Ridge** (BN). The really large estimates came from **Mt. Tamalpais**, Starting with 200 July 21-22 (GH) through Aug. 4 (JG). By Aug. 6 there were 400-500, and on Aug. 11 a very impressive peak of 2000 (both JG)! As early as the next weekend only about 200 remained (GH, JG) and only 40-50 were estimated there Aug. 21 (GH). At least some of these crossbills apparently departed in a southerly direction, for flocks were seen flying past **Pt. Diablo** and across the **Golden Gate** Aug. 18. (fide GH, CF), and

many were rumored to be in San Francisco. High numbers in Tilden Park were 25 on Aug. 12 (AG, WG) and 20 on Aug. 26 (JG).

**OBSERVERS:** Roger Alexander, Joanne Arnold, Stephen F. Bailey, Max Beckwith, Laurence C. Binford, Kurt Campbell, Graham Chisholm, Laura D. Collins, Tom Condit, Nancy Conzett, Art Edwards, Carter Faust, Leora R. Feeney, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Phil Gordon, Jeff Groth, Kem Hainebach, Ed Harper, Roger Harshaw, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Marge Irwin, Richard Jeffers, Jerry M. Langham, Peter LaTourette, Phil Lenna, many observers (mob), Pat Morales, Joseph Morlan (JM), Dan Murphy, Janet Murphy (JMu), Miranda Nelson, Bill Noble, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Jay F. Penniman), Winnifred Orcutt, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Dennis Serdehely, Debra Love Shearwater, Scott Smithson, Erick Spohr, Malcolm Sproul, Dorothy Tobkin, Irene Timossi, Jack Whetstone, Mike Wihler, David Wimpfheimer, Sue Yang.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY,

Observations Editor

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524-7421)

## EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DIRECTORS

We hardly ever thank officials who have done well in their jobs. On this occasion the Conservation Committee commends East Bay Regional Park Directors Mary Lee Jeffords and Harden Kessel for their services for the Park District and the environment.

They are candidates for re-election in November.

—ART FEINSTEIN

## OAKLAND CHRISTMAS COUNT

Polish those binos! The Oakland Christmas Count will be held on **Sunday, December 16**. Your participation will make it another successful count and another day of comradery in the field and at the dinner that evening. Beginning birders are urged to take part as well as those who have a few more years experience under their glasses.

The Oakland count circle consists of all points within a 15-mile diameter (this conforms with all circles nationwide), the center being at the SW junction of Arimo and Vista, Oakland, to include Yerba Buena Island, bay-shore from Pt. Isabel to Davis St., hills from Tilden Park to Knowland Arboretum, portions of San Pablo, Briones and Upper San Leandro reservoirs, east to St. Mary's College and Lafayette Reservoir - in all 177 square miles.

Needed to cover that area are not only field birders but feeder observers. Feeders give us many of our national records for high count species and they often attract and keep rarities.

All past participants for whom we have current addresses will receive an invitation to participate along with a brief questionnaire to return. But some of you have moved, we may not have your names in our files, or you have never participated but wish to this year. If you don't get an invitation by November 10 and want to join us, call Nancy Conzett (527-2593), Chris Swarth (849-2053), or the GGAS office (843-2222) to give us your name, address and phone number.



This years compilers are Kurt Campbell, Nancy Conzett, Helen Green and Chris Swarth. They welcome you into the ranks of this annual peaceful army.

## THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Having just spent a few days at Pajaro Dunes, I can understand the endless fascination of shore birds. There are the ever-present gulls wheeling over the beach, a definite challenge to identify since their plumage changes with age and season. I'm afraid I haven't the exposure or the patience to master this species. Terns are graceful, beautiful sea birds with incongruous, raucous voices. Is there anyone who can resist the fascination of watching the dance of sanderlings and sandpipers as they shadow the ins and outs of small waves? Godwits, curlews, and willets are food machines, probing the sand at water's edge. Snowy Plovers are almost invisible on the sand until they scuttle away at the last moment. Pelicans, so ponderous on land, glide effortlessly over the water. I watched them sunning themselves at the water's edge, just where the river meets the ocean. Like overweight bathing beauties they stood, stoically allowing shallow waves to wash over their feet. To take flight was an ordeal of running and flapping of long wings. Once airborne they flew in rows of 8 to 10: one, two, three flaps, then they all glide together. It was "Follow-the-Leader" in its purest form.

I could never pin down one species feeding in the river shallows. It most resembled an immature Red Phalarope. But I'll never forget its method of stirring up the sand for its dinner. Its rhythmic, yet dignified, dance set to music was definitely a rumba!

Huge flocks of a mixture of Caspian and Forster's Terns rested on the sand adjacent to equally large groups

of gulls. Water birds tend to spend most of their lives in close association with others of their own kind. Aside from colonial nesting, there are several advantages of flocking. Most obvious of these is for defense. Large groups of sea birds will rise together to attack an eagle, just as small flocks of forest birds will "mob" owls and jays. Similarly, waxwings and starlings will form dense flocks to thwart a Merlin or a Sharpshinned Hawk from singling out an individual.

Sea birds also tend to congregate to exploit food sources such as schools of fish or waste from fishing boats. Most amazing is the element of cooperation among cormorants who actually engage in "fish drives." By swimming around and below schools of fish, each bird is assured of a meal. American White Pelicans also use a method of fish-driving. They do not dive from the air as Brown Pelicans do, so they form semi-circles, surround a school of fish and by splashing and beating their wings, drive the fish into shallow water where they are easily caught.

One of the mysteries yet to be solved is the ability of flocks of sandpipers and other small shorebirds to move as one. How can a group of 50 or more birds turn and twist as a single unit, with leadership changing at each swift alteration in direction? Maybe we don't need to know why, but simply enjoy the beauty and grace of this lovely sight.

Finally, travelling flocks form during migration, mostly with their own species, but sometimes including a mixture of closely-related species. Certain species, such as Merlins, remain basically solitary even in migration.

"Birds of a feather flock together" is an old adage that was founded on a good deal of truth.

—MEG PAULETICH

## ALAMEDA BIRD WALKS

Tuesday morning bird walks through Alameda parks and along the shoreline began Sept. 25. Sponsored by the Alameda Recreation Department, the walks are led by Patricia Boese, past president of GGAS. Fee for the six-week series is \$20. For information phone 522-4100, ext. 227, or 339-8374.

## FREMONT CLASS

Received too late for The GULL's last issue, Fremont Adult School announced Birding Field Trips, led by Alice Hoch. The class meets Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information phone 791-5841 or 657-0475.

## SEABIRDS AND WHALES

Space is still available on an eight-hour boat trip to the Cordell Banks, leaving out of Bodega Bay, Sonoma County on Sunday, Oct. 21.

The Cordell Banks are a seamount (submarine mountain) twenty-two miles west of Point Reyes. Seabirds and mammals often congregate here in response to an abundant supply of food. The Cordell Banks are being considered for National Marine Sanctuary status.

Space reservations are \$35 each, and may be made by sending a check or money order to Kurt F. Campbell, P.O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. Those making reservations will receive further information. For inquiries only, call (707) 664-0104.

## BAJA IN JANUARY

San Jose State University offers an 11-day Field Studies in Natural History visit to Baja California Jan. 6-16, 1985, to give you a first-hand look at giant cardon cactus, mother whales and babies, wintering birds and other natural life in this unusual environment.

For information on itinerary, costs

and university science credit, write FSINH, San Jose State University, Office of Continuing Education, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192 or phone (408) 277-3736.

## SHEARWATER JOURNEYS

Debra Love Shearwater's Monterey based boat trips are scheduled and a copy may be obtained by writing or phoning her at her new address: 221 Claudius Drive, Aptos, CA 95003, or (408) 688-1990. A sample of her offerings:

Oct. 6 Monterey Bay, Chandik/Bailey.

Oct. 6 Twilight — Storm-Petrel Tour, Bailey/Baldrige.

Oct. 7 Storm-Petrel Tour, Baldrige/tba.

Oct. 13 Monterey Bay, Baldrige/tba.

Oct. 13 Twilight — Storm-Petrel Tour, Baldrige/tba.

Oct. 14 Storm-Petrel Tour, Langham/tba.

Twilight tours are \$15 and the others are \$27 per person.

## COOPER SOCIETY MEETING

The October meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 1 in **Room 101 MOFFITT** (room changed for this meeting only). At this meeting three researchers will give the presentations they will make next week at the Wildlife 2000 symposium at Fallen Leaf Lake. This will be an opportunity to see the types of research that are attempting to predict species presence based on habitat.

Mark Dedon: "Validating bird habitat matrix models: Black oak and mixed conifers".

Marc Liverman: "Keyword census technique for modeling the bird community/environmental system".

Steve Laymon: "Pitfalls in developing and testing habitat capacity models".



The seminar will be in Room 101 Moffitt Library, UC, Berkeley at 8 p.m. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

## **MONO LAKE COMMITTEE CRUISE**

Final schedule of itinerary and fares for the Mono Lake Committee's sponsored cruise to Glacier Bay, Alaska via the Inside Passage is now available. Departing San Francisco Friday, June 14 Sitmar's TSS FAIRSKY will visit Vancouver, Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka, Prince Rupert and Victoria, returning on Wednesday, June 26. The fares per person, double occupancy, range from \$1967 to \$2589.

A deposit of \$350 per person is to be paid before Dec. 1, 1984. Fares are 86% of the regular tariff and about 12% of the payment is a tax deductible donation to the Mono Lake fund. Full details of the cruise may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped 4"x9" envelope to: ALASKA '85, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

## **HILLARY HULEN RESIGNS**

The Golden Gate Audubon Society's only remaining employee has announced her plan to resign effective Nov. 15. Her enthusiasm and energy will be missed.

## **BOARD INVITES APPLICATIONS**

The GGAS Board of Directors is now accepting resumes for consideration for the position of GGAS Chapter Office Manager. The position is established on a 30 hour work week, and the office is open from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The duties of the position include in person and tele-

phone reception, processing of mail, correspondence, ordering and maintaining supplies, selling books and periodicals, depositing money taken in, supervision of volunteers in clerical assignments, and such other tasks as the board may assign. The Office Manager is also required to attend a monthly evening Board meeting, and an occasional evening membership meeting.

Applicants should be able to type, to meet and respond to the general public in a helpful, friendly, professional manner, to perform the duties of the position; should be knowledgeable about natural history and the environment; be familiar with and able to use a word processor/computer, or be willing to learn the skills and routinely use the equipment.

Applicants may telephone GGAS President Dan Murphy evenings at 564-0074, or may write requesting a position description.

## **NEWS FROM THE RANCH**

The Audubon Canyon Ranch on Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, is a wildlife sanctuary and nature education center under the joint sponsorship of the Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. The Ranch closed its gates on its 22nd public viewing season on July 15. (This year marks a new opening and closing pattern — March 15 to July 15). Over 17,000 visitors and school groups came during this period, with 1400 in the new, extended two-week period. Generous sums of money were left in the bookstore and donation boxes; appreciative letters were received (one young participant wrote "I do not have any money but I really do like your ranch"); others expressed similar sentiments but did include donations. Donations are important to our remaining open.

School teachers from the Bolinas-Stinson Beach Schools, the Philips Brooks School, the Portola Junior High School and many others expressed their thanks to the ACR Board, the Ranch Staff, and the Volunteer Council Docents for continuing to make the ranch experience possible.

Since its inception, and originally called the Bird Patio, the Ranch has provided a building for the quiet observation of resident birds. The floods of 1982 swept away the building and plans were made thereafter to replace it with a more environmentally sensitive structure. Built in a U shape, the new building has been located on the creekbank, with a running water pool and feed stations in the interior courtyard. The walls are covered with redwood bark, matching the adjacent redwood trees; the roof is covered with sod-grass intermixed with wild flowers. Native vines and shrubs complete the camouflage. The building was dedicated in June. The Bird Hide is named in memory of Faith Boilleau Crocker, an early conservationist in west Marin. The building was designed by architect Clifford Conly and built by Jerry Fitzgerald along with Ranch Manager Skip Schwartz. Audubon Canyon Ranch thanks Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wright and the San Francisco Foundation for their support of this project.

The heronry enjoyed very little predation this year, and 15 pairs of Great Blue Herons, 111 pairs of Egrets completed their nesting.

1984-85 school and group visits are beginning to be scheduled, and the new adult class program for Volunteer Canyon is soon to be announced.

## OLD RARE BIRD

### ALERTS CONTINUED

The next exciting RARE BIRD A-

LERT REVISITED for November/December 1983 is available in the office. If you missed September/October 1983 and don't know what happened last year at this time when birders were directed to "take the Nature Trail down into the canyon and look for the flycatcher along the creek", (see Nov. 16 1983 for further information), send a check for \$3.00 and a stamped self-addressed envelope (37¢ on a legal-size please) to GGAS, Room 204, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707, or come to the office and pick up your copy.

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

### For GGAS

### Gift of

Ann Adams & Samuel Williams  
Duane & Ann Smith  
Hugh & Eleanor Visser

### In Memory of

Earl Troxel Gertrude Bialos  
George Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Tominaga

### For the Rare Bird Alert

Charles & Betty Wyatt  
Dr. J. M. Langham  
Laura Klaisle  
The Nature Center-Fair Oaks  
Wilma & Albert Ghiorso  
Dr. Steven Wilson  
Kem Hainebach  
Bruce Barrett  
Clayton Cole  
Benjamin & Ruthmary Parmeter  
Peter William  
Carlos W. Jordan  
Edward Greaves  
James Osman  
Richard Spight  
Edwin Duerr  
Florence Plymell  
Mrs. Mary McKinnon  
Donald Brockhurst

### In Memory of

Robert Fisher

Elsie B. Roemer

## GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

See your September issue of The GULL for details, but here is another chance to order your supply of seed for the season. Persons ordering seed will be notified by mail of the pick-up point address before Nov. 1.

ORDER AND PRE-PAY BY OCT. 22

PICK UP ON SATURDAY, NOV. 3

**VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED**—Premium mix composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings.

20 lbs.    \$ 8.50

50 lbs.    18.00

**GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX**—Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds composed of white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed.

20 lbs.    \$ 6.00

50 lbs.    11.50

**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED**—High in oil content and nutritive value, but smaller than the striped variety.

10 lbs.    \$ 8.00

25 lbs.    20.00

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128

**GULL**

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

**The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**